

Georgia Cooperative Development Center (\$636,000). I would ban earmarks as we know them, but as long as these earmarks are available, I'm going to apply for them in an effort to pursue federal funding opportunities for my district. For non-defense projects in the current earmarking system, I work closely with local governments, civic organizations, non-profits and business development authorities to identify and prioritize projects important to local communities in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District (and sometimes elsewhere). I only request funds for projects authorized by law for federal funding and do not do so for private parties or entities. The Georgia Cooperative Development Center (GCDC) will provide assistance to new and emerging cooperatives by providing technical advice, business analysis, and focused training. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it helps small rural producers achieve economies of scale, jointly market, and purchase supplies and services in bulk, thereby reducing the end cost to consumers. Beneficiary: Upper Ocmulgee River Resource Conservation and Development, 750 South Perry Street, Suite 212, Lawrenceville, GA 30045.